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A Message from the Principal

My name is Michael James Gonzalez and I am the new Principal. The beginning of the year was marked by many changes. Teachers, students, and parents responded to these changes and have been able to stay the course despite the challenges of reorganizing the school. I believe we will continue to grow as a school community from this point on. My hope for the new year is that we are able to grow together as a community and as individuals.

The school will continue to grow as we look towards next year and beyond. We will have new students joining our school as well as new, qualified staff ready to help students achieve the learning goals as outlined in our curriculum. Let's work together to make this school a positive environment for students, staff, and parents.

Student Writing Highlights

One of the keys to success in academics is the ability to write at a high level. All four components of English (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) have importance. However, writing becomes more important especially at the university level where much of the graded materials are in the form of written reports and research papers. Therefore, writing is a key component for success in university and in the professional world.

We at PIS @ Seri Alam are very proud of the written work that our students are producing with the help of our amazing group of teachers. On page two of this newsletter is an example of the great writing style from Harshini Mani Rajan from our IGCSE 1 class. Please enjoy!

Michael James Gonzalez



My Experience on a Roller Coaster

It is not always that people of this generation get to let their hair down and take a look at the world outside their confinement of unlimited stress. Three years ago, I was having my PSLE (Primary School Leaving Examinations). After a whole year of perpetual tests and grueling assignments, I finally got to fly the coop. Not to mention, my results were extremely outstanding compared to my fellow classmates.

My father had a lot of exciting 'events' lined up for the holidays. Our ideal holiday was spent in Universal Studios Singapore where we stayed for about three weeks. Universal Studios is known for its humongous roller coasters. We would be dumb if we missed the highlight adventure. Truth be told, I had never been on a roller coaster ride before and I had mixed feelings about testing the waters. I knew that the outcome would either be idyllic or remorseful. With the exuberant spirits I had, I thought that I would give it a shot while hoping for the former outcome.

My father and my sister totally underrated this upscale roller coaster in Singapore, despite my vain attempts to walk them through the fact that it would be overwhelming. So when we sat in the red roller coaster which is also known as 'Human', my mind was blank. You can only imagine how helpless I felt when the seat belt was fixed. I was a little distracted with my father's jibber-jabber on his masculinity for attempting such an enormous undertaking. Although I was completely cheesed off by his sweeping statement, I was relieved that I could take my mind off about what was about to come.

At first, the roller coaster went on an inclined position all the way to the top and stopped for about three to four seconds. The bird's eye view of the entire Universal Studios was magnificent and petrifying at the same time. Within that short period, my father asked me to look around and enjoy that fascinating sight. I was completely annoyed by his off-point attitude. Then there came the stomach-churning moment of the ride. When the roller coaster descended rapidly, I could not even feel that my body parts below my head existed. I was literally screaming my heart out. All those twist and turns of the ride seems much more complicated than the ups and downs of my life. To describe my spot on feelings during the ride, I would say that I have never been more alive and never been more dead. When the roller coaster ride reached a 'relaxing' point, I grabbed the opportunity to take a look at my father and my sister.

Guess what? There were left dumbfounded that my initial description of the roller coasters turned out to be true. The first words that came out of them were "Never again...Oh my god!"

Harshini Mani Rajan, IGCSE Year 1



Global Perspectives Class

From Mr. Alan (Global Perspectives IGCSE 1)

2015 is a challenging year for students who are taking Global Perspectives for the first time at Pegasus International School. It is also an enjoyable opportunity for students to express their opinion or make a value judgment on a particular topic. So far, students have been exposed to recent events taking place in Malaysia, namely flooding in Kelantan and the tragic Air Asia crash which took place recently.

Global Perspectives is certainly an important subject and one that will stretch students' thinking to the fullest. Processes include framing and focusing questions or identifying problems, followed by discussion of issues or events. Students also get the chance to learn independently, conduct research, organise information collected and analyse evidence to support their conclusions. The subject also requires students to report their conclusions after evaluating and synthesising information they have discussed. Here are some photos showing our students in action:





Hands-On Activities in Science

PIS @ Seri Alam understands that children learn best when they are engaged in hands-on activities. Science is one subject where students can contextualise what they learn in the classroom and apply in real-life experiments. Our state-of-the-art lab facility offers ample opportunities for our students to engage in a large range of experiments and activities where they can really engage with the curriculum content. Here is one testimonial from one of our Science teachers, Ms. Luciana explaining a recent experiment.

From Ms. Luciana (Science Secondary 2)

Science classes for our Secondary 2 students are interesting and fun. They are learning about osmosis, a process where water molecules move from a region with higher concentration of water molecules to a region with lower concentration.

In the experiment, students first broke the eggshell with hydrochloric acid and exposed the shell membrane, a partially permeable membrane. Second, they kept the egg in distilled water for 48 hours. After this, they could observe an increase in the size of the egg. This means that water molecules moved from the distilled water into the egg by osmosis.

The students enjoyed the lesson and they are learning how to be scientists in every day lessons.

We would like to thank Luciana for the great work she is doing with our students in Science.





Fun with Sandwiches

Learning and fun is not contained to Ms Luciana's class alone. Ms Nhazzla has also been working hard with her own projects in her Science class. In the following teacher testimonial, Nhazzla discusses one of her Science classes.

From Ms. Nhazzla (Science Primary 5 and 6)

For the first week of school, students in Primary 5 and 6 had the opportunity to make sandwiches in their science lesson. These activities were carried out in conformity with the first chapter of Science "Energy". Students had to work together as a team to complete this task. In the process, they came to understand why parents often tell them to be careful in the kitchen and practice hygienic food preparation. Last but not least, they understand how humans obtain energy through food and water. Listed below are some of the experiences of the students.

Student Experience by Amirrah in Primary 5

First, I felt very excited because I haven't done it. Second, I learned to follow instructions from my teachers. Third, I am very proud because I can do it by on my own. We need to take two slices of bread and put it on the plate. My teacher helped us to cut the bread. We put tuna and tomato together with the bread. I am very happy because I really enjoyed making the sandwich.





New Chinese Teacher

Unfortunately Mary Tan, our previous Chinese Teacher will not be able to continue her work at PIS. We would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

We would like to welcome Ms. Ang Yee Lee as our new Chinese Teacher for all levels. Ms. Ang comes to us with a strong background in teaching, linguistics, and Chinese. She will make a fine addition to our already stellar group of teachers.

School Hat Policy

A reminder to all parents that hats are compulsory for outdoor play and Health and Physical Education classes. The sun rays in Malaysia at times can be quite strong so it is important for us to protect the physical well-being of our students. Too much sun can have an adverse effect on your child. The official school hat is available for purchase from the front office.

If you have any questions about this policy please feel free to ask questions at the Front Office or visit the Principal's office.

